



VOLUME 58 ISSUE 02

February 2008

Field Day Honors



Mike Anderson, WV7T, 2007 Field Day Coordinator (left) presents the Pikes Peak Radio Association Field Day appreciation plaque to Tri-Lakes Fire Fighter, Elliot Linke KBØRFC, (center) for his efforts in securing the fire station location and supporting the PPRAA 3F Field Day effort at the Tri-Lakes Fire Station in Monument, Colorado while PPRAA President Doug Nielson N7LEM (right) looks on. The Field Day event secured First Place in the Colorado Section, Second Place in the Rocky Mountain Division, and 21st in Field Day activities around the country.

The PPRAA has been invited back for Field Day 2008

In Other Words...

Here is February and January is a cold memory. It looks like this will be yet another year passing at warp speed with everyone racing to do their taxes before (and usually the weekend before) April 15th. I got mine out of the way early and am waiting for my refunds to be deposited so I can do something completely decadent with the money – like pay off bills and maybe buy a new radio.

Radio is on my mind these days, especially because of the news about Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, who also wants to be President, dismissing the role amateur radio operators play in keeping communications open during a disaster. You may read the article posted in the PDF version of this month's Zero Beat.

This isn't the first time amateur radio operators have been dismissed as ineffective and insignificant over the past few years and it makes me wonder if that is the reason so few people want to get involved and get a license. I would have thought the ARRL would be a better advocate for ham radio or that the idea that ham radio is nothing more than an embarrassing hobby like stamp and insect collections, as one government official called it a year or so ago. What surprises me is the lack of information out there about ham radio and what we really do, especially in emergency situations to keep communications open. With that kind of attitude, young people who get involved only in "cool" activities, would be unwilling to look any further than the general consensus that ham radio is less efficient and very uncool. At least the attitude is a little different with some members of my family, like my cousin Ellen.

Ellen is a girly girl if there ever was one but when we exchanged emails a few weeks ago and she found out I was a licensed ham, she was impressed. She asked all sorts of questions and I encouraged her to contact the ARRL and find out what clubs and VE sessions and training were available in her area. I am proud to say she is now

studying to get her license and I've no doubt she will succeed.

It's that kind of enthusiasm that I think most of the older hams have lost as they find reasons and excuses to shy away from getting too involved or simply letting their equipment gather dust. There are a lot of hams out there who still have the same excitement and drive they had as young men and women enchanted by the magic of radio but, like anything else, radio has lost a little of its magic.

Les KCØNC has found a little of that historical magic in this month's Wayback Machine column and there's contest magic to be found in the online PDF version of this month's issue. I even found a little magic in May 1936 issues of *Reader's Digest* in an article by Earl Jerome about the *Minutemen of Radio* that is reprinted in the PDF version available online at PPRAA.org. This month there is a new article by Dan Romanchik KB6NU on understanding the FCC rule making process and Dave NØOEP talks about the magic of 10 meters – from his experience, of course. You will also find a little something special from a local ham on one of the following pages reminiscent of the days during World War II. One thing you can be sure of is that there's always something new and different in every issue of the Zero Beat.

Times marches on and already this year we have lost two local hams: Andy Juhasz NØQMF and Dorothy Mikkelson KBØSHJ. Andy and Dorothy were very active in the community and members of the PPRAA, as are their children who are also amateur radio operators. The spirit Andy (affectionately known as Dad to many local hams) and Dorothy instilled in their children is the same spirit we should instill in the young people of our community. There was a time when no junior or high school was without a radio station and local amateur operators helped students set up and run their stations, volunteering their time, equipment and expertise. I doubt there is a school within the Pikes Peak area that has a radio station or has ever even considered the possibilities a radio station would offer them in terms of experience and knowledge. That is where we all need to start, not with more programs for club members or monthly dinners

Cont'd on Pg. 4...

SILENT KEY

- ❖ For those of you who know Skip, WB2UFV, his father, affectionately called Dad (Andy Juhasz NØQMF) by everyone, passed away at the age of 81. Including Skip and his son, there were three generations of hams in the Juhasz family.
- ❖ Dorothy Mikkelsen KBØSHJ passed away early Friday, January 11, 2008. Her sons, Cliff Mikkelsen NØZUQ and Don N6JRL, and the rest of Dorothy's family were with her when she passed away.

10-Meter Magic

What is your favorite band? Like to work FM, AM, SSB, CW, PSK, RTTY, etc.? Like to talk with other local club members? Like to work DX? Enjoy contesting? Well, my favorite for all of these is 10 meters (28.000 to 29.700 Mhz). Here is some information from Wikipedia: "The Amateur Radio 10 Meter Band was created in [1928](#) after the [International Radiotelegraph Conference](#) was held in Washington, DC, USA."

"With the elimination of the [CW](#) requirement in the USA (23 Feb 2007), Technician class licenses with "no code" may operate up to 200 Watts [CW](#) and Phone [SSB](#) in a 10 Meter sub band."

With the sunspot cycle 24 getting started.

"Solar physicists have been waiting for the appearance of a reversed-polarity sunspot to signal the start of the next solar cycle. The wait is over. A magnetically reversed, high-latitude sunspot emerged today. This marks the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 and the first step toward a new solar maximum. Intense solar activity won't begin right away. Solar cycles usually take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max (expected in 2011 or 2012). It's a slow journey, but we're on our way!"

It will now be possible to make contacts more often with very low power radios and antennas

that are less than optimum! With 25 watts and a mobile 10 meter mag mount for an antenna I have worked New Zealand and Australia.

If you do not have a 10 meter radio now is the time to start looking. You might even be able to get a Radio Shack HTX-10 or HTX-100 at one of the swapfests. Let me know if I can help you locate a used radio.

Antennas are much easier to construct and install for 10 meters than other HF bands. An inverted V for 10 meters only takes 34 feet of wire and only needs to be 17 feet at the apex. It can be fed directly with RG-58 or RG-8 coax. Or, if you want to get a little fancier, you can build your own Quad antenna. There are several web sites that will help you construct your quad. My favorite is softcom.net/users/kd6dks/quad.html. If you need help with constructing or installing a 10-meter antenna just ask.

Before I close this article, I want to mention my favorite thing about 10 meters. I can often be heard saying "My name is Dave, 10-10 is 31033 31033 and Qth is Colorado". This is a normal exchange for a member of 10-10 International www.ten-ten.org/. What is 10-10? From their web site: "Ten-Ten International Net, or 10-10 for short, is an organization of amateur radio operators dedicated to maintaining high levels of amateur radio communications on the 10-meter amateur band (28.0-29.7 MHz). Established in 1962, 10-10 has grown continuously since that day, with some ups and downs according to the numbers of sunspots and the openness of the band. As you read this, the number of 10-10 numbers issued to members is over 70,000. 10-10 would welcome your membership in the organization if you have an amateur radio license with 10-meter privileges."

"10-10 offers the 10-meter enthusiast the opportunity to share in a wide variety of activities internationally, not the least of which is meeting new and old friends. By keeping the band active through participation in 10-10 nets, QSO parties, and certificate collection, 10-10 offers both satisfaction and challenges, while promoting

Cont'd...

10 Meters cont'd...

learning and courteous operating practices. The combination of on-the-air activities, awards, a bi-annual convention, and the **10-10 News** creates an unusually strong bond among 10-10 members."

You can find me most days on 28.120 MHz monitoring PSK. When the band opens I sometimes go to 28.345 SSB (frequency that most 1010-ers that collect numbers hang out on).

73,
Dave NØEOP

Wayback Machine

**From the EL PASO RADIO CLUB newsletter
February 11, 1957**

(No report of the actual meeting held on Feb. 13, 1957.) We will be hosts to the Pikes Peak Radio Club. We will have a joint "Auction" with the Pikes Peak Club, so bring your gear properly labeled and identified. There have been many TVI complaints coming in. So let's see if we can't do a little checking and keep the FCC out of our hair.

February 9, 1977 0-Beat

Reminder on the 29th, we will hold our SWAP FEST at Peterson Field. If you are bringing something you'd like to put on a table, bring a table. Talk-in service on 16/76.

The upgrading class is well attended and in good hands with Mike KØTER on the key Tuesday night and Ray WØWYZ on the books Thursday nights.

A very good article about transmitter hunting, equipment and techniques was presented by Lyle WBØMDI.

Les Borst KC0NC

In Other Words cont'd...

(both of which are good ideas as far as they go), but with active community involvement. The time to talk about changes is over. This is the time – and the year – for action so we can erase the taste of government officials and political candidates denying the important contribution that amateur radio operators make to their home communities and the country when other forms of communication no longer work.

The more amateur radio operators get involved and show people what we can do and how much time and energy, experience and expertise we are willing to invest in the country's citizens – young and old – the more our public image will grow until men like Governor Mitt Romney will no longer be able to deny the contributions amateur radio operators make without being reminded by the people who voted them into office that they are out of step and out of touch with reality. We can no longer rely on entities like the ARRL to lobby for us; this is something we must do for ourselves by getting involved in setting up and maintaining radio clubs in the schools and helping students build and operate their own radio stations. And there are so many other projects and activities available, like moon bounces, building and sending up radio communications and experiments in weather balloons, launching radio satellites, etc., any one of which would spark a young person's imagination and show them there is still a lot of radio magic left for them to find and make their own.

The year is passing us by faster and faster and soon winter's cold will give way to spring's warmth and returning life, summer's bright hot days and autumn's last blaze of glory before winter sets in again. How will you spend your days before they're gone and it's time to file your taxes again? How about making an investment in the future of amateur radio that will help keep the magic alive?

By the way, don't forget to renew your membership. It's a step in the right direction.

73 as always...

Jackie Cornwell AC0CA

Know Your FCC Rule Making Process

Around Christmastime, a furor arose over a petition to change the rules regarding the use of digital modes. The petition number is RM-11392. You can find it on the FCC website by going to http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi and entering the petition number in the **Proceeding** text box. The petition will be the highest numbered document returned.

While the petition is interesting in and of itself, what's more interesting is how some hams got all excited about this petition. Many thought that rules changes were imminent and they urged everyone to rush right over to the FCC website and comment. While it's a good thing for hams to be vigilant about proposed rule changes, this petition was nowhere near being turned into a rule.

On the Web page, "FCC Rulemaking Process" (www.fcc.gov/rules.html), the FCC describes the four steps that occur before a petition is translated into rules changes:

- 1) Notice of Inquiry (NOI): During this phase, they gather comments on the petition.
- 2) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM): If they determine that a petition has merit, they move to this stage. These are the rule changes that the FCC itself proposes to make based on the petition and the comments received.
- 3) Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM): Changes may be made after receiving comments on the NPRM.
- 4) Report & Order (R&O): The R&O is the document containing the rule changes or an explanation of why no rule changes are being made at this time.

When everyone was getting excited about this there was no NPRM in the list of documents relating to RM-11392. The petition was filed on 3/27/07, released for comments on 8/28/07, and the first comment wasn't entered until 11/20/07. Only two other comments were entered until all the recent publicity. This particular petition is still a long way from becoming a Part 97 rule, and if I had to guess I'd say that it will never even get to the NPRM stage.

Don't get me wrong. I am not saying that it isn't important to read and comment on petitions, but before you get your knickers in a twist over a particular petition or proposal, you need to know where it is in the process. This process can be excruciatingly slow sometimes, but slow is not always a bad thing. By not rushing petitions through the rulemaking process, the FCC ensures that comments from all concerned are gathered and all those who are interested in an issue can take their time to draft a cogent comment.

When he's not scanning the FCC website or eHam.net for the latest ham radio controversy, KB6NU works CW and PSK on the HF bands and blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com. You can reach him by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Feb 9-Feb 10, 1500Z-2100Z, Milan, OH. The Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club, NI8G. Celebrating the birthday of Thomas Edison, born in Milan, OH. 21.265 14.265 7.265. QSL. Jack Hubbard, NI8N, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. *Also celebrating the memory of Tom O'Connor, NI8G.*

ni8n1@yahoo.com

Feb 11-Feb 15, 1400Z-2100Z, Ft Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, W4LX. Celebrating Thomas Edison's Birthday and our 16th year. 28.430 21.350 14.240. Certificate. FMARC, PO Box 061183, Ft. Myers, FL 33906. stellagurka@embarqmail.com or www.fmarc.net

Feb 16, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating President's Day and Mt Suribachi, Iwo Jima Flag Raising by US Marines in 1945. 14.325 7.250 14.060 7.040. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. k2gyv@yahoo.com

Feb 16-Feb 17, 1500Z-2200Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. George Washington's Birthday. 28.415 14.240 7.240 7.038. Certificate. MVARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. www.mvarc.com

Feb 21-Feb 23, 0000Z-0000Z, George, WA. Eastern Washington DX Club, W7G. President George Washington's Birthday. 14.250 18.135 7.225 3.880. QSL. Brian J. Nielson, W7BJN, 11650 Road 1 SE, Moses Lake, WA 98837. w7bjn@nwi.net

Feb 23, 1500Z-2300Z, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service, KD8CKP. 3rd Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP event. 14.245 21.315 7.245 EchoLink. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. *Check ins via EchoLink on the KC8RKV node.* www.portcars.org

Feb 23-Mar 6, 0100Z-2359Z, Austin/San Antonio, TX. Central TX Contest Group, WA5DTK.

Commemorating the siege days at the Alamo. 14.250 7.240 14.040 7.040. QSL. Barry Brewer, 603 Broken Bow Dr, Round Rock, TX 78681-7401.

wa5dtk@arrl.net

Mar 1-Mar 2, 1500Z-2100Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Peace Corps Amateur Radio Club, KA9NLX. To honor Peace Corps volunteers, their service and sacrifice. 21.360 14.290 10.125 7.270. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 N Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. *Also 2-meter simplex in the Chicago area.* jpaskev@aol.com

Mar 7-Mar 9, 1400Z-1100Z, Sweetwater, TX. Nolan County Amateur Repeater Association, W5NCA. 50th Year Sweetwater Jaycees World Largest Rattlesnake Roundup. 14.245 7.275 7.245. Certificate. Gary Armstrong, 806 E 16th, Sweetwater, TX 79556. www.rattlesnakeroundup.net

Mar 7-Mar 10, 2000Z-2200Z, Two Harbors, CA. Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, K6PV. IOTA expedition to Santa Catalina Island. 20M 40M 75M phone bands. QSL. Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 2316, Palos Verdes, CA 90274. www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

Mar 8, 1500Z-2100Z, Vero Beach, FL. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, W4OT. Commemorating America's First Wildlife Refuge, 105 Years. 14.240 14.060 7.240 7.060. QSL. W4OT - Vero Beach ARC, PO Box 2082, Vero Beach, FL 32961. *From the Refuge on The Barrier Island, west of route A1A.* www.fws.gov/pelicanisland

Mar 8, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating the Naval Aviator designation established in 1915. 14.325 7.250 14.060 7.040. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. k2gyv@yahoo.com

Mar 8-Mar 9, 1700Z-0300Z, Florence, SC. Florence Amateur Radio Club, N4B. 50th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Mars Bluff, SC. 28.330 14.290 7.263 3.920. Certificate. FARC - Mars Bluff Certificate, PO Box 5602, Florence, SC 29502-5602. *Times are daily. Other frequencies may be used.* www.w4ulh.org

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**January 14, 2008**

Attendees: Mike WV7T, Doug N7LEM, Dennis N0ABC, Mike K0MLA, Sue KC0SYA, Ken KD0AGV, Bill KD0JU, Dan AC0CC, and John KC0JFH.

President Doug Nielsen N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Minutes: approved as printed.

Reports

Treasurer's Report – Dennis N0ABC reported that we have a total of \$10,309.38 in our three accounts as of 14 Jan 2008.

Membership Committee – no report.

Field Day – Mike WV7T will present a plaque to the M/TLFPD for their contribution to last year's field day. They have requested the event be conducted in accordance with the (ICS) Incident Command System (see Jan 2008 QST article, pp 80-81). Mike will serve as Incident Commander. He needs authorization for \$60 authorized for some black ink cartridges and event cards. Needs to get a photographer, safety officer, and team leaders for the GOTA station and a satellite station, if possible, publicity director, tour guides. Mike/Dan moved/seconded to get \$60 allotted for ink and support materials. Passed.

COQP – Jim provided a checklist of things to do for 2008 COQP. The rules have not been finalized as of today. A COQP chairman is still needed.

Volunteer Recognition, Level 2 Awards

Ken brought a catalog of ad specialty items for review. We are going to get stainless steel

travel mugs. Dan will handle this.

Programs – Ken KD0AGV

- ✓ Feb CSPU Electrical Safety
- ✓ Mar – Digital presentation Jim AB0UK
- ✓ April, May - TBD
- ✓ June – Field Day Prep
- ✓ August – Antenna building project – type tentatively is a twin-lead J-pole.
- ✓ Unscheduled: QRP, test instruments, DXing

Membership Benefits – Ken would like to make up a "welcome kit" to provide new members.

Special Events Stations – Mike would like to know what types of events members would like to participate in. The board suggested narrowing down the possible choices and select a few options.

Change of Meeting Location – We don't have the ELIC location for the May meeting. We will have to move our meeting location for that month. We are considering a field trip to a TV station, but this will be limited to groups of 12.

Unfinished Business: None noted.

New Business

Door Prizes: At our last meeting, Ken tried a new format using a plain box for each prize.

Recording of Programs: Ken asked if we would consider recording on video the program presentations? He has the equipment to be able to do this. This was favorably received.

Web Site: Ken asked if we could add a page to the website for the library he maintains that indicates what items are available. He also requested a change in the background color for better readability.

2M Net: Ken has had requests for a return to the simplex mode. The board suggested that he

Cont'd...

Board minutes cont'd...

experiment with changing to simplex mode after starting the net on the GGARC repeater 146.91 MHz. He also suggested the 2M Net as a subject for a Zero Beat article. Dan will do this. The suggestion was made to award an annual prize for the most check-ins to the net. Another suggestion was to have a contest with a clue given each week and the monthly winner awarded a coffee mug.

Around The Table

Dennis is concerned about the status of the swapfest. Need to get the membership's approval to buy the prizes at the Feb club meeting.

Mike: Quarterly dinners – How should he handle this? Fargo's Pizza was suggested as a location. They have meeting rooms. Sunday afternoon at 4 PM, Feb 17, will be the first dinner. This will also be considered as a possible location for the May meeting. Mike also suggested that the Hammie award be retired and other options considered. The board agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7PM, Monday, February 18 (Presidents' Day), 2008, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Submitted by:

John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary
25 January 2008

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2008

President Doug N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the East Library Information Center (our new location) followed by introductions around the room.

Silent Keys: None noted.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis N0ABC reported that we had a \$10,309.38 total balance in all three accounts as of 9 Jan 2008.

Minutes: Dave N0EOP/Mike K0MLA moved/seconded that November meeting minutes be approved as printed in the Zero Beat. Passed.

Committee Reports

Megafest – Rob N7LV is the Megafest chairman. The tentative date is Saturday, June 14 (backup June 7). [Secretary's note added 1-25-2008: Megafest date is June 7].

Field Day: Mike WV7T - Elliot Linke from the Tri-Lakes/Monument Fire Protection District reported that the organization has approved the use of their station in Monument for our Field Day activities. They would like to see an ICS for the activity. Mike still needs a volunteer for the GOTA station. Other stations are covered.

Summer Picnic – Aug 16, 2008 at Dirty Woman Park in Monument.

Tech Education – Mike is expecting to see an instructional DVD for the General class license exam to be made available by ARRL in a few weeks. He is requesting suggestions for special event stations and will be sending out via the Reflector of possible events. Please comment on what events you would like to see for Special Event stations.

Club Library – Ken Sheehan KD0AGV has many ham-radio-related books available for loan in the club library. Old QST issues are available. Copies of CQ magazine are also needed. Contact Ken to request archived magazine articles via email.

New Business

Bill Bahn, an engineer from the AF Academy talked about jam-resistant radio technology

Cont'd...

Club minutes cont'd...

development. He requested assistance from interested club members on that project. He is also an engineer at Black Forest Engineering. They are trying to develop a method of measuring very small capacitances (~3 femtoF) for sensor applications. He has requested assistance in the project. Bill may be contacted at 719-593-9501.

Zero Beat – Les KC0NC commented about the differences between the printed version of the Zero Beat and the PDF version available on our website. The PDF version is in color and has much more detail and more articles than the printed version does.

Thursday Night Net – Dan ACC0CC needs more net control volunteers for our 7 PM Thursday night net on 146.91 MHz. Contact Dan at AC0CC@arrl.net

Door Prizes – Ken KD0AGV has made some changes for the door prize system. Door prizes are concealed in unmarked boxes and winners will pick a box. He also suggested that we might want to obtain only one larger prize, rather than several smaller ones. This was favorably received.

Unfinished Business

None

Programs

Feb - CSPU Electrical Safety Presentation
Mar - Digital Modes by Jim AB0UK

Program

Homebrew Night: Members presented the following projects:

Les KC0NC – large homebrew tuner containing several homemade capacitors.

Mike WV7T – digital interface, ground plane antenna, simple CW key, modified pointer/pen/2M/440/220antenna, Ramsey transmitter, and homebrew tuner

Jim AB0UK – 4:1 balun, two-radio switchbox for one mike, amp keying/ALC switchbox, mike switchbox with digital interface

Ken KD0AGV – antenna line shooter using modified crossbow pistol (from Sportsmen's Warehouse \$30) and Shakespeare Synergy spin fishing reel (\$12)

Next Club Meeting: 7 PM, Feb 13, 2008 at the ELIC.

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM, Monday following club meeting, Feb 18, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation, 4110 Tutt Blvd.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Submitted by:

John Wishart KC0JFH

PPRAA Secretary

25 Jan 2008

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The PPRAA/VE team holds testing sessions at 9 AM at the Colorado Technical University, 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd).

Exam fee: \$14.00 for Elements 2, 3, and/or 4, payable to ARRL/VEC.

No same-day retakes of same element. Walk-ins allowed; pre-registration not necessary.

BRING: Photo ID, original and copy of valid ham license and/or valid CSCE, and FRN for licensed hams.

Contact:

Jackie Cornwell AC0CA at 719-632-8254 or by email at ac0ca@arrl.net.

Online: ppraa.org or arrl.org.

Mark your calendars:

Apr. 12, Jun. 14, Aug. 9, Oct. 11, Dec. 13

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings PPRAA,

Just recently, I went through a process that all licensed hams have to go through every ten years: renewing my license. While I marked my calendar with a reminder over a year ago, I needn't have worried about missing this critical date. The ARRL and several other ham organizations sent me notices. Of course, they also offered to help process my renewal for a small fee, usually a little less than the current testing fee.

Being a typical ham (i.e. frugal, cheap, etc.), I decided I would attempt to deal directly with the FCC and renew for free online via their Universal License System (ULS). Since my old license already had a FCC Registration Number (FRN) listed, I was registered with the FCC's ULS. However, I had not set up a password for my account. So, about a week before my 90-day renewal window, I started the process of gaining access to my ULS account. I followed the online instructions for setting up my "Personal Security Question" and then reset my account password. Within two days, I had the password and was able to log in to see my license was not yet available for renewal.

On the first day of what I thought was my 90-day renewal window I logged in only to find my license wasn't eligible for renewal yet. Apparently, since 2008 is a leap year I was one day too early. The next day when I logged in, I was greeted with a message that my license was eligible for renewal and asked if I wished to renew at this time. I selected yes and was taken to a web page where I was asked to verify and, if required, update my personal information. I was then asked to check a box to certify I was familiar with the requirements and regulations for RF and operating safety. I followed the link to the appropriate federal laws and after a quick read was sure I remembered the requirements. After acknowledging I was familiar with the rules and that my mailing address was up-to-date I submitted my renewal request.

I logged back into the ULS two days later and saw that my renewal had been processed and I was now

waiting for my new license to arrive. Less than a week later an envelope from the FCC arrived in the mail with my new license, so I'm good until 2018. My only cost was probably at total of less than 30 minutes of web time and no dollars expended.

On a more general note, sunspot cycle 24 began on the 4th of January and is expected to reach its peak in 2012; so we are on our way to improved propagation and my renewed license should see me through the complete cycle.

We had an excellent turnout for the January meeting despite cold and questionable road conditions. I guess our new location at the East Library has worked to bring in some new members as well as some folks who haven't been to a meeting in quite a while. I hope this is an indication of good things to come this year.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

73,
Doug N7LEM
PPRAA President

NONPROFIT STATUS

The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.

**Jess Miley
KØTAA**

719 W. 7th, Florence, CO 81226
Amateur & Hobby Radio Products.

We Trade.
Excellent Tech @ \$35 per hour
Commercial rates higher / 719-784-3040
Please call before you drive.

Minute Men of Radio

If your parlor radio set is one of the all-wave kind, you may have dipped into the shortwave quadrant and fished up some such fragment of conversations as this "calling CQ . . . CQ . . . WRPM calling CQ and standing by . . ." No doubt you attributed them, rightly, to amateur radio operators, their handmade broadcasting kits, and their love of inconsequential gossip. You'd never guess that these rag-chewing amateurs — "hams," they call themselves — constitute a trained communication corps of incalculable value in time of disasters they are the minute men of radio.

On March 10, 1933, Long Beach, Calif., felt the first tremor of an earthquake that crumpled walls, toppled buildings, and injured 5000 people. Fires lit the sky for 200 miles along the coast and 30 miles inshore. There were 130 dead. Relief forces were helpless without accurate information from the devastated area. But telephone, telegraph, and commercial radio were reduced to tangles of useless wire.

A Long Beach schoolboy with a brand new amateur radio license finally broke the silence. His station was close to the sore, and rumors of tidal waves had sent most of the populace toward the hills, but he stuck to his post and kept his homemade wave on the air, giving the world its first authentic news from within the earthquake zone. Other amateurs worked through the dusk to salvage tubes, parts, and power facilities sufficient to get their stations operating. At 8:00 p.m., the first official messages went through from Mayor Harris of Long Beach to the adjutant general of the state, over Francis Sarver's amateur station W6AOR.

"Ham" emergency work then began in earnest. A five-station amateur net was set up, keeping the earthquake zone in constant communication with outside centers of rescue work. Vernon Keyes stayed on the air from 8:05 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. by hanging on to receiver and transmitter with both hands as each new upheaval rocked his home. Other hams swung into the air to keep

Major Albert Jones in touch with headquarters after he had assumed control of the earthquake zone to cooperate with the police to broadcast messages from the injured for distant relatives and friends; to handle vital traffic with the Red Cross, the Los Angeles General Hospital, the Salvation Army, the Highway Patrol, and county relief agencies. For a solid week, radio amateurs carried the most imperative messages from the earthquake zone, winning the unstinted praise of every authority participating in the relief work.

This amazing communication system, springing into operation at the first ominous rumblings of disaster, was not created on the spur of the moment. Many of the more proficient amateurs are members of organized relay nets. There's the relay net of the American Radio Relay League, the official ham organization, an Army net and a Navy net — all amateurs. There is now a special emergency net, whose members must be equipped with their own power supply, sufficient to operate their stations when the local power system in their community fails. Each central station of such a net works with four adjacent stations — north, south, east and west — with which communication can be established at specified times, under all weather conditions, and without serious interference. The operators are held to a high standard of efficiency; the net is kept in working trim by weekly drills over the air; each operator is pledged to preserve the secrecy of all private messages he receives or transmits, and is forbidden to accept any compensation for his services. Hams are usually glad to transmit personal messages when there are no commercial services available.

The Long Beach area is not the only community that has had occasion to be grateful for the existence of hams. Only last March, when unprecedented floods devastated the Ohio Valley and New England, the amateurs spent days and nights on end without sleep, transmitting news, family messages, and relief information into and out of the inundated regions. They were only carrying on their tradition of service that had been exemplified in the Vermont floods of 1927, when 128 persons were killed and Montpelier was

completely cut off from all contact by wire, phone, rail, or truck. It was an amateur then who sent the message that brought food and supplies by plane. The New England ham net went into action, keeping the beleaguered city in touch with the outside world.

Again, when the hurricane of September 1928 cut its deadly swath across the West Indian seas, killing 3000 persons along its path, an amateur in the Virgin Islands broadcast warnings to the United States. As a result, amateurs in Florida established emergency communication routes before the storm struck. Two amateurs in Palm Beach – Ralph Hollis, a driver for the local fire department, and Forrest Dana, a civil engineer – commandeered every dry cell battery in tow to assemble the 500 volts necessary to get their station on the air after city power had failed. Though they lost their homes and possessions in the disaster, they kept their wave on the air, and for three days furnished the only means of communication with northern points. Seven years later, after the first warning of Florida's 1935 Labor Day hurricane, an amateur carried his portable set down to the Keys. In Miami, state officials clustered about the set of another amateur. Messengers scurried in and out. With all roads and wires wrecked, the two amateurs furnished the Keys' only communication with the mainland.

In January 1935, hams brought order out of the chaos resulting from two feet of snowfall in British Columbia in 20 hours, followed by a week of rain and sleet storms. All railroad lines into Vancouver were completely blocked, and remained so for nine days. Power and communication lines were down. Amateurs located lost trains and relief planes, provided newspapers with news, brokers with market quotations, and the general public with communication.

Back in 1917, when the United States entered the war, our fighting forces had immediate need for thousands of radio operators. To make them from plumbers, farm hands, and clerks in the time available was an insurmountable task. The organized radio amateurs were appealed to. In 60 days, 4000 of the most enthusiastic and skillful

radio operators the world possessed enlisted in the Army and Navy. Their record is one of the classics of the war.

Amateurs exist in their present strength largely because the powers who originally divided up the ether guessed wrong. In 1912, wave lengths below 200 meters were thought to be useless. The preferred wave lengths were divided among commercial interests, and the short waves were given the amateurs to play with. But the amateurs, inspired by the late Hiram Percy Maxim, founder of the American Radio Relay League [ARRL], developed short-wave radio, and made it a useful channel for communication over the longest distances on earth. Ham pioneering blazed the trail down through the 80-, 40-, 20-, and 10-meter bands. When an amateur refers to a given "band," he means the region adjacent to the designating number – thus the "160-meter band" means 155-165-meter wave lengths. Within these bands, certain wave lengths are allotted to [Morse] code, the rest to phone communications. A licensed amateur may use either code or phone within his bands both are widely used.

Beginning in 1931, amateurs established the practical utility of 5-meter operation, which is now one of the most widely used bands in amateur radio. Contributions now are being made to the development of still shorter waves, down to 2 ½ meters. Amateurs taught the police the advantages of short-wave communication 14 years ago, and later convinced the Navy of its practicability.

The tremendous jump in "ham" traffic – from 17,000 licenses in 1929 to 60,000 today (of which 40,000 are in the United States) – has crowded the shorter wave lengths uncomfortably. Hence, highly selective receivers have been developed which will bring in clearly the minutest variations of frequency and segregate different messages that would come in as an unintelligible babel on an ordinary broadcast receiver.

Most hams are self-taught, and amateur radio is one of the most truly democratic of American institutions. Banker and office boy, millionaire and mechanic, clergyman and clerk meet on equal terms in the ether. A movie technician on Long Island calls a barrister in New Zealand by his first

name. The amateur radio clubs of Schenectady, NY and Sydney, Australia hold joint meetings over the air. Among celebrities who have succumbed to "ham fever" are Wilmer Allison, the U.S. tennis champion; Herbert Hoover, Jr.; Freeman Gosden (Amos of *Amos 'n Andy*); Frank Hawks, the speed flyer; and Carter Glass III.

Physical disability does not exclude one from hamdom. Many hams are permanent shut-ins; some are blind. One copy of the *Radio Amateur's Handbook* has been made in Braille, and though it is not yet available in quantity, this single copy has made it possible for several blind operators to get their amateur licenses.

Hams speak a language among themselves that is entirely meaningless to the uninitiated. On the air, a YL (young lady) is a female radio operator or a ham's girl friend, and XYL is a ham's wife. OM means "old man," OB is "old boy," and FB (fine business) means "very good." When you hear an amateur monotonously repeating "Calling CQ . . . CQ . . . CQ . . . calling CQ," he is asking any other operator who hears him to answer and strike up a conversation.

Hams are bitterly attacked sometimes by neighbors with out-of-date [radio] sets who complain of interference with broadcast reception. If the offended parties would go directly to the ham with their complaints, they would find quick relief. Installing a wave-trap is only a ten-minute job, and the ham is glad to do it gratis.

The spirit of experiment is as much alive in hamdom today as ever. At a meeting of a New York amateur radio club recently, a member spent fifteen minutes explaining the hookup of his transmitter, fifteen more minutes proving that according to all known laws of electricity the hookup was *wrong*, and a third quarter of an hour introducing strong evidence that he was getting *better results* with the new circuit than with standard radio formulae.

"What I want to know," he concluded, "is why the damn thing works."

Thirty hams knit their brows and settled down to figuring out why the damn thing worked. And they *will* figure it out.

That's how these amateurs developed the science of short-wave radio in the first place.

Earl Jerome

Originally published in May 1936 in *Reader's Digest*

Good Contesting

This is the time of year that contesting really gets active. I sure hope you were able to participate in the RTTY, CW, and SSB contests (NAQP) in January that were sponsored by the National Contest Journal.

I promised to list some logging programs for contesting:

- N1MM can be found at pages.cthome.net/n1mm/ This is the most popular of the free programs.
- TR Log can be found at <http://www.trlog.com/> This is a popular paid program.
- K4HAV 10-10 Contest Program
<http://members.surfsouth.com/~jhardy/1010.htm> Paid program for 10 meter contests.
- CT by K1EA <http://www.k1ea.com/> Free program that has DOS and Windows versions available.
- Writelog <http://www.writelog.com/> Paid program that is popular.
- NA Contest Logging Software
<http://www.datomonline.com/> Another paid program.
- GenLog <http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=2090> Free program.

-  Ham Radio Deluxe <http://hrd.ham-radio.ch/>
Free suite of programs that are popular.

The Dayton Hamvention will be May 16,17, and 18 this year. On 15 May there will be a Contest University that I will be attending this year. If anyone else is planning on attending let me know and we can sit together.

"As K3LR said, keep an eye on the Official Hamvention site for updates. I have requested the usual Saturday afternoon time slot for the Contest Forum, and as far as I know, we will be at the Hara Arena this year. Saturday is May 17.

The Antenna Forum (always a good one for contesters) should be on Friday, May 16.

Of course, you may want to consider coming to Dayton a day early for Contest University, scheduled to be held at the Crowne Plaza on Thursday, May 15. See contestuniversity.com for more info (discounted Early Bird signup is now open).

And keep your eyes open for info on the Contest Dinner for Saturday evening.

73,

Doug K1DG

*Organizer/Moderator, Dayton Hamvention
Contest Forum"*

Colorado has their own contesting group: The Grand Messa Contesters of Colorado www.k8fc.com/gmcc/. Locally WØRAA is spear heading the effort and we have formed a local chapter of the GMCC. So if you are interested in contesting or want more information contact Dick at w0raa @ comcast.net.

For those wanting a fun and easy contest try: the North American QSO Parties. They are a one-day format, 100-watt power limit and simple exchange of name-and-state, they're a friendly, exciting contest. Plus, you can work stations again on every band for extra fun and 5BWAS totals!

Upcoming contests:

-  CQ WW RTTY WPX 9-10 Feb

-  New Hampshire QSO Party 9-10 Feb
-  Louisiana QSO Party 9-10 Feb
-  Northern New York QSO Party 9-10 Feb
-  OMISS QSO Party 9-10 Feb
-  YL-OM Contest 9-11 Feb (This is a fun contest)
-  School Club Roundup 11-15 Feb (this is a GOOD one)
-  ARRL DX Contest 16-17 Feb
-  Mississippi QSO Party 23-24 Feb
-  North American QSO Party 23-24 Feb
-  North Carolina QSO Party 23-25
-  ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) 1-2 March

*Good luck and good contesting,
Dave NØOEP*

Gov. Mitt Romney Belittles Hams

*Wednesday 16 November 2005 @ 15:48:10 |
Eastern Massachusetts ARRL*

Romney 'Disses' Amateur Radio In Televised Town Meeting Posted on Wed., 16 Nov. 2005 @ 15:48:10

Governor Mitt Romney dismissed the role of Amateur Radio operators in emergency communications during a televised 'town meeting' program last night on WCVB's 'When Disaster Strikes: Segment Two.' The program featured public safety and volunteer organization officials from across Massachusetts among its audience.

Host and moderator Natalie Jacobson asked an increasingly-agitated Governor Romney questions about communications interoperability, and communication without commercial power. Romney was next asked by Jacobson, "...so does it come down to ham radio?..."

The Governor replied in a disgusted tone, 'No, we don't need to deal with ham radio operators...'

Embarrassed public safety officials later tried to put in a good word for Amateur Radio. National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist Glenn Field was prepared to state the importance of Amateur Radio, when Salvation Army Colonel Fred Van Brunt was called upon. Van Brunt remarked about his organization's quest to improve its communications capabilities and how Amateur Radio has aided his organization. 'The ham radio situation helps a great deal,' he stated.

'I have already written and submitted a letter to the Governor's Office,' wrote Eastern MA Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY. 'I have also written an email to Natalie Jacobson.'

ARRL Section Manager Mike Neilsen, W1MPN sent a section-wide email today to all Eastern MA ARRL members describing the incident along with actions he and his staff were taking to mitigate the situation.

'[Romney's] attitude about us sets an unfortunate tone within the state's executive branch,' wrote Neilsen. 'As a former military officer, I see this as a failure in leadership. My immediate concern is our working relationship within the [Massachusetts Emergency Management Team] environment.' Neilsen intends to address the Governor's comments as 'an urgent matter' at a meeting on November 17 with Don Carlton from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

'I was very disturbed about what the Governor stated on the program,' wrote Ron Wood, W1PLW, the section's Public Information Coordinator. 'It does show that more work is needed by all hams in the section. It's a great idea to write letters explaining the good we do.' Wood is attempting to schedule a meeting with the

Governor's office tomorrow so that EMA ARRL staffers might discuss the matter further.

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE wrote that Governor Romney's comment has made 'a PR problem' for Kinahan in his role as MA State RACES Officer.

'I've got a roster of over 150 Amateur Radio operators that support local communities, and those of us that directly support the state government. There are at least double that in terms of people that are actually out there that I don't have formal paperwork on that support Amateur Radio emergency communications in some organized manner... The Governor has said that he 'certainly doesn't need to rely on ham radio' -- where does that leave the RACES program now?'

'I am ashamed tonight that I am a Republican!' remarked one ham radio viewer. '[Romney] speaks in derogatory tones about hams. He certainly shows an ignorance as to what we do and are capable of. I suggest a grass roots campaign of local hams calling the State House and The Governor's Office to protest.'



Mike Anderson WV7T presents the Field Day 2007 plaque to Tom Haskins WØTMH.